

Bureau of Land Management
Western Oregon Plan Revisions Office
333 SW 1st Avenue
Portland, OR 97208

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RECEIVED
OCT 26 2007

Dear Fellow Concerned Citizen,

I have recently learned of plans to dramatically increase the cutting of trees in the western districts of land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), known as the Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR).

I believe the motivation for this nearly tripling of cut levels is primarily political, and fails to provide responsible land management of public lands under both economic and "best science" laws and guidelines.

It is easy to imagine that there is a tremendous political pressure on public land managers to increase cut levels to try to offset losses of Oregon and California Lands Act (O&C) receipts to counties, which incorporate large tracts of publicly managed lands.

The reduction of these revenues to counties from previously mismanaged, misguided, and unsustainably large historical harvest volumes, is significant.

However, while the loss of these revenues has been absolutely predictable, lack of political willpower to formulate alternative revenue sources should not negatively impact current management of lands held in public trust.

Proposed increases in cut level, primarily from expanded harvest of old-growth trees (trees which may be as old as, and as much as two or three times as old as our nation), will mean that logs arrive at mills when their value is at or near 30-year lows. Weak housing-market predictions suggest that this value may become even less.

Removing old-growth trees, mostly by reducing annual and intermittent stream riparian buffers, will require increased road construction, which in turn will result in increased disturbance of sensitive soils, flora, and fauna.

Riparian buffers not only provide shading and replacement stream-structure required for water purification and habitat, but they also provide important cover and concealment travel-ways as animals move through forests-turned-patchwork-quilted tree plantations.


The value of ancient forests transcends monetary measure, and we have learned by now that *forests* do not require "management".

Tree plantations *can* be managed. Adequate deforestation to provide managed tree plantations has already occurred on these western BLM districts, and on privately owned timber lands.

I, and others, ask that you place your management efforts and goals where they *might* be effective (primarily in correcting past management efforts and goals in previously deforested public lands).

We ask that you leave ancient trees and the wonders of natural forests alone, so that current and future Americans may enjoy and be awed by the natural processes that are in evidence there, as they exist nowhere else on this earth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Terry W. Mills". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "M" and "S" at the end.

Terry W. Mills
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Coos Bay, OR 97420
541.297.4766

CC: The World, Oregon Congressional delegation